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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

USSR (Latvian SSR)

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Military Organizations in Latvia

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1. In Latvia, the Internal Troops (blue crown cap with red band) are charged with the following duties:
 - a. They guard bridges while armed with rifles with fixed bayonets. They are sometimes armed with machine carbines. Their usual headwear is the overseas cap.
 - b. They guard state offices, such as the Supreme Soviet of Latvia, all the Ministries, the Communist Party headquarters in Riga, and their own offices and garages. Usually they are armed with machine carbines, but sometimes they are also armed with rifles with fixed bayonets. On one occasion it was observed that the infantry staff building was guarded by a "blue cap" armed with a machine carbine.
 - c. They escort prisoners in trucks. For such duties they are usually armed with rifles with fixed bayonets.
 - d. They make political arrests, usually in cooperation with the militia.
 - e. They make document checks on roads outside of Riga.
 - f. On several occasions they have been seen marching in Riga to the music of a military band. On each occasion it was a unit of approximately 120 men, four abreast, carrying rifles with fixed bayonets. Their appearance and military bearing is smarter than that of other sections of the service.
2. The Latvian Frontier Troops (green cap crown), among other duties, question the inhabitants in the coastal area concerning any strangers seen in the area.

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3. One branch of the Railway Guards and Convoy Troops accompanies deportees while on the trains to the USSR. Source has no additional information on these troops.
4. The Railway Militia guards railway stations and accompanies trains. Apparently, their main task is to guard against criminal offenses on railway property.

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